

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/004,832

Examiner

Elizabeth C. Kemmerer, Ph.D.

Applicant(s)

KIRKNESS ET AL.

Art Unit

1646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment of 23 December 2003 and the telephonic interview of 24 February 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 27-30, 36-38, 44-46, 52-54, 69-92 and 94-96.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Mark Hyman on 24 February 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claims 60-68 and 93 without prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue the subject matter claimed therein in a continuing application.

Please amend claim 69 as follows:

69. (Amended) A method for stimulating the proliferation of bone marrow stromal cells, comprising contacting said cells with an effective amount of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide comprising residues 1 to 142 of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) a polypeptide comprising residues 2 to 142 of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(c) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide

encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC® Deposit No. 75514; and

(d) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the mature polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC® Deposit No. 75514.

Please replace claim 87 with:

87. (Amended) A method for stimulating the proliferation of thymocytes, comprising contacting said thymocytes with an effective amount of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polypeptide comprising residues 1 to 142 of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (b) a polypeptide comprising residues 2 to 142 of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (c) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC® Deposit No. 75514; and
- (d) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the mature polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC® Deposit No. 75514.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant agreed to the examiner's amendment to facilitate allowance of the majority of the claims. Applicant did not concede to any rejection in accepting this amendment. Applicant reserves their right to prosecute the invention defined by claims 60-68 and 93 in a continuing application..

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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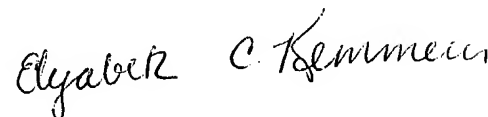
accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth C. Kemmerer, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0874. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne L. Eyler, Ph.D. can be reached on (571) 272-0871. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ECK



ELIZABETH KEMMERER
PRIMARY EXAMINER